

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
SEPTEMBER 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 5 FEBRUARY 1997**

1. SITE NAME: Pachuta Bombing and Gunnery Range

SITE NUMBER: A04MS028800

LOCATION:

City: Pachuta
County: Jasper and Clarke
State: Mississippi

PROJECT NUMBER: A04MS028801

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 2

ASR RAC: 2

2. POC's:

TECHNICAL MANAGER:

Name: Richard L. Pike
Office: CEHNC-OE
Phone: 256-895-1559

GEO DISTRICT POC:

Name: Gerry Chandler
Office: CESAM-PM-SP
Phone: 334-690-2327

GEO DIVISION POC:

Name: Sharon Ernst
Office: CESAD-PM-M
Phone: 404-331-2495

HEADQUARTERS POC:

Name: James Huang
Office: CEMP-RF
Phone: 202-761-8883

SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:

Name: Rochelle Ross
Office: CELMS-PM-M
Phone: 314-331-8784

ASR TAG REVIEW POC:

Name: Thomas M. Meekma
Office: SIOAC-ESL
Phone: 815-273-8739

3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The former Pachuta Bombing and Gunnery Range was located in east central Mississippi, its northeast corner about a mile southwest of the town of Pachuta. Roughly rectangular, it encompassed 10,686 acres. About three quarters of the range was in the southeast quarter of Jasper County. The remaining quarter extended east into Clarke County, its eastern border defined by the Southern Railroad right-of-way and State Route 11.

The western half of the range is quite hilly; the eastern portion relatively flat. The terrain slopes toward the east with elevations between 290 feet NGVD to 370 feet NGVD. Ground water flow is to the east southeast. Pachuta Creek and its branches drain most of the site area. Shubuta Cree and its branches drain the lower southern portion of the area. Shubuta Creek bisects the range from the northwest to the southeast, as does the Barnett-Paulding Road. Both creeks flow in a generally eastern direction and eventually drain into the Chickasawhay River which flows south into the Pascagoula River and into the Gulf of Mexico.

Interstate 59, built in the early 1960s, cuts through the center of the range, from north to south, near the Jasper/Clarke County line. A natural gas pipeline, constructed in the 1970s, parallels Interstate 59 east of the highway. Near where the barracks once stood, there is a large lake, the result of a dam being constructed on Shubuta creek in the early 1980s.

Prior to the Second World War, these lands were mostly forest covered, with only a few scattered farms and fields on the eastern portion of the range. The land was used for logging and farming. Today the lands are once again being used for timber and farming.

4. SITE HISTORY: In the early 1940's, 10,686 acres were leased for use as a bombing and gunnery range by the U.S. Army. A portion of the range, 9,660 acres, were acquired by condemnation on 12 July 1943. Between June 1942 and the summer of 1945 several different types of aircraft from Key Field, in Meridian, Mississippi, and other Third Air Force fields, used the range for various purposes. B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-29 Superfortresses used the bombing range, in the northwest quarter of section 24, Jasper County. P-51 Mustangs practiced air-to-ground gunnery on the western half of section 7, Clarke County. F-3 and A-20 aircraft practiced day and night reconnaissance and photography as well as air-to-air and air-to-ground gunnery. Special troop units from Key Field also used the range for certain ground exercises, including ordnance and chemical warfare training. The range was returned to private hands in the years just after the war. The leases on all 10,686 acres were terminated, but there are no disposal records and, therefore, a date of termination is unknown.

According to documentation found during research, in the south central portion of the range, the western half of the southeast quarter of section 23, Jasper County, there were barracks for a small number of troops stationed at the range or living there temporarily for field exercises, including small

arms target practice and chemical warfare practice. The men watched training films, engaged in field exercises, set up chemical mine fields and decontaminated them. Men from these barracks, or on day trips from Key Field, would also use a small arms range near the center of the northeast corner of section 18, Clarke County.

The location of the chemical warfare practice range is unknown. The activities that took place there consisted of setting up and maintaining a Class V chemical munitions storage dump with all the details of such a procedure rigidly maintained, contaminating an area with mustard land mines, finding that area, properly marking it for the safety of all personnel, and decontaminating the mustard area.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The ASR does not divide the site into areas or include any Risk Assessment Codes(RAC) for areas. The TAG decision was for a strategy of EE/CA for Area D, bombing range, and NOFA for all other areas. The ASR does provide locations of areas used for various purposes and supporting maps(M3-M5). Information on these various areas is listed below:

AREA A

Size, Acres:	Unknown
Former Use:	Strafing Target Area
Present Use:	Field and heavy brush
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	(See 8 below)

AREA B

Size, Acres:	Unknown
Former Use:	Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range
Present Use:	Grassy field
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	(See 8 below)

AREA C

Size, Acres:	Unknown
Former Use:	Rifle Range
Present Use:	Open fields and man-made lake
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	(See 8 below)

AREA D

Size, Acres:	Approximately 640 acres (Section 24, Range 13 east, Township 2 north, ref. Conclusions and Recommendations, page 2-4, para 2.3.2)
Former Use:	Bombing Range
Present Use:	Pine trees and planting of farm crops
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	100 lb. practice bombs; photoflash bombs

AREA E

Size, Acres:	Unknown
Former Use:	Chemical Warfare Practice Range
Present Use:	Not known; location not found but assumed to be by the barracks area
Probable End Use:	Can not be determined
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	(See 8 below)

AREA F

Size, Acres:	Unknown
Former Use:	Barracks Area
Present Use:	Woods and brush
Probable End Use:	Same as present (ASR did mention that the owner wanted to remove remaining foundations)
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	None

AREA G

Size, Acres:	Unknown
Former Use:	Other land
Present Use:	Woods, brush, fields (Timber and farming)
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	None

6. CURRENT STATUS: The draft Archives Search Report for Pachuta Bombing and Gunnery Range was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in September 1995.

7. STRATEGY:

Area A: NOFA; (RAC 5)

Area B: NOFA;(RAC 5)
Area C: NOFA;(RAC 5)
Area D: EE/CA;(RAC 2)
Area E: NOFA;(RAC 5)
Area F: NOFA;(RAC 5)
Area G: NOFA;(RAC 5)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: A strategy of EE/CA for Area D, bombing range, and NOFA for all other areas applies. Justification is described below for each area of the site. The site survey team found .50 cal projectiles at the strafing area; this is an HTRW project at best. Although nothing was found by the site survey team in Area D and the ASR recommends a strategy of no further action, the strategy of EE/CA for this area was decided due to the prior use as a bombing area for 100 lb. practice bombs and photoflash bombs and findings of bomb fragments in the past by owners.

Area A (Strafing Target Area): The site survey team found spent .50 cal(projectiles) at each of five impact areas. The ASR researchers found no record of anything larger being used. There is little or no likelihood that complete rounds would be found in this area. Since this is at most an HTRW hazard, RAC is 5 and strategy is NOFA.

Area B (Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range): No OE or OE residue was found in this area by the site survey team. A cloth target was spanned between two mounds for use in shooting of .50 cal. The ASR researchers found no record of anything larger being used. The owner stated that he had occasionally found spent .50 cal. Since spent .50 cal projectiles would be the only likely item related to OE found at this location, RAC is 5 and strategy is NOFA.

Area C (Rifle Range): No OE or OE residue was found in this area by the site survey team. The site survey team saw no indication of a range at the location although photo interpretation of a photo dated 1951 was that berms were visible. Arms used at the rifle range would all have been smaller than .50 caliber. Since spent small arms bullets and cartridge would be the only likely OE related item found at this location, RAC is 5 and strategy is NOFA.

Area D (Bombing Range): Owners have stated that they used to find fragments of practice and photoflash bombs. Nothing was found by the site survey team. The B-17s dropped 100 pound sand-filled practice bombs with a three pound spotting charge. The photo reconnaissance planes dropped 52 pound M46 photo flash bombs with some black powder and 25 pounds of photographic flashlight powder. The Support District (ASR) point of contact stated that there has been considerable disturbance of the soil

in this area. Owners have cleared, plowed and replanted the bombing range area. First, the owners report having disked the area several times to a depth of 18 inches between 1950 and 1980, after which it was planted in trees. The owners found nothing but bomb fragments. Based on this history, potential for finding other than fragments is negligible. A low priority EE/CA is the strategy.

Area E (Chemical Warfare Practice Range): HNC Safety concurred with researchers that Chemical Warfare Materials(CWM) are not a factor for the site. The ASR writers found a document stating that there was advanced chemical training at Pachuta Bombing and Gunnery Range. A Class V chemical munitions storage dump was maintained. An area was contaminated with mustard land mines and one problem was finding that area and properly marking that area for the safety of all personnel. Decontamination of the mustard area was accomplished as an additional lesson. This narrative indicates that these controlled exercises, with decontamination as part of the Standard Operating Procedure(SOP) negates the possibility of any hazard remaining in this area. The ASR team was not able to determine the location of this area although it is assumed to be somewhere near the barracks area. Site survey team members inspected the vicinity of the barracks area, but did not find any evidence of the chemical warfare range. Also, none of the residents interviewed had ever heard of any chemical training taking place on the range or come across any chemical warfare material. Given this background, RAC is 5, and strategy is NOFA.

Area F (Barracks Area): Persons interviewed stated that the buildings in this area were dismantled and removed shortly after the end of WWII. The site survey inspection found three foundations overgrown with brush with no hazardous items found. RAC is 5, and strategy is NOFA.

Area G (Other Land): The ASR team was not able to find any history or evidence of OE usage in the remaining lands. RAC is 5, and strategy is NOFA.

General Comments Regarding OE: No range clearance forms or decontamination record for the Pachuta Bombing and Gunnery Range was found. The only ordnance discovered have been fragments of practice and photoflash bombs, and small caliber shells and bullets. There were no reports of ordnance discovered either in the construction of Interstate 59, the laying of the natural gas pipeline, or the building of the dam and impoundment area along Shubuta Creek. There have been no reports of chemical items being uncovered. It is unlikely any hazards remain. No further action is recommended.

HTRW: No hazard was specified. However, the site survey team verified that there are projectiles from .50 cal at five impact areas located in the strafing area.

Policy Considerations: The ASR states, "The current landowners don't want anyone else coming around asking about ordnance hazards on the bombing and gunnery range. They have been interviewed by three Corps Districts to date and feel it is a waste of time and money."

Natural Resources: There are known State-listed species occurring in the site area. Listings are provided in the ASR Findings, page 4-3, paragraph 4.6. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resources: No cultural or historical sites associated with this site are reported in the ASR. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only